investigating agencies of the Central Government to exchange information, share intelligence, plan strategy and take coordinated action. In special circumstances, financial assistance has also been given to some of the affected States over and above the on-going allocation for modernisation of police and supply of weapons. Training of police personnel in Anti-extremist operations has also been arranged. Further, Central Government, in consultation with the concerned States has drawn an Action Plan in this regard which includes:

(i) ensuring security of police stations, particularly those located in extremist affected areas;

(ii) to have a common communication system;

(iii) set up a Control Room in each State;

(iv) Joint Patrolling;

(v) Launching of Area Domination Programme among the States; and

(vi) Strengthening of intelligence network in affected areas in concerned States.

[English]

Insurgency in Tripura

1689. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI JAYSINH CHAUHAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of the growing violence in Tripura;

(b) if so, the total death toll during the last one year till today;

(c) the reasons for the increasing violence in the State;

(d) the steps taken to bring normalcy in Tripura;

(e) whether the Government of Tripura has requested the Union Government for the deployment of more para-military forces with sophisticated arms; and

(f) if so, the decision of the Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. As per available information, as against 178 persons killed in tribal insurgency related violence in Tripura during 1996, during the current year, 72 persons were killed upto 17 February, 1997.

(c) The reasons for the increasing violence in the State include, *inter-alia*, economic backwardness, lack of adequate employment opportunities, marginalisation of the tribal population, linkages with other North-East insurgent groups, availability of shelter in a neighbouring country and increased procurement of arms and ammunition by the tribal extremist groups.

(d) Several steps have been taken to bring normalcy in Tripura, which include, *inter-alia*, strengthening the presence of Central Para-Military Forces and Army units, improved coordination of counter-insurgency operations and sharing of intelligence, declaration of the most seriously affected areas as "disturbed areas", release of arms and ammunition, vehicles and other security equipment to the Tripura Police on priority basis, Central financial assistance for modernisation and upgradation of State Police Force and review of the situation from time to time for taking appropriate decisions

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Central Government have deployed adequate units of the Central Para-Military Forces and the Army in Tripura.

Forest Cover in Andhra Pradesh

1690. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the long winding exercise to check the deforestation and improve the forest cover in Andhra Pradesh has come to a naught;

(b) whether the recommendations made by the Centre in this regard have not been implemented so far;

(c) if so, whether the Central Government have sought the report from the State Government regarding its inability in implementing the forest Cover Scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and reaction of the Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ): (a) and (b) Efforts to check the deforestation and improve forest cover in Andhra Pradesh are continuing through afforestation activities under State Schemes, Centrally sponsored schemes and externally aided projects as well as protection of natural forests through active involvement of local community in various forestry activities.

(c) The Central Government has not recommended implementation of any specific forest Cover Scheme.

(d) Question does not arise.

Bio-Diversity Action Plan

1691. SHRI KESHAB MAHANTA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to prepare a bio-diversity action plan for conserving the forest bio-diversity;

(b) if so, the details thereof;